

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OES-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 L-01 ARA-06 AF-04 EB-03 /044 W

----- 103365

R 282138Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9300

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 625

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNEP

SUBJECT: SYG WALDHEIM ON PERSONNEL

REF: STATE 034020

1. DURING CALL BY AMB. BENNETT AND MYSELF ON WALDHEIM THIS MORNING I INQUIRED AS TO THE STATUS OF THE UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP. WALDHEIM TOLD ME THAT HE HAD MADE NO NEW MOVE ON THIS IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT MAURICE STRONG HAD AGREED TO STAY ON THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR. HE DID SAY HOWEVER THAT MAURICE STRONG HAD ASSURED HIM ON THREE OCCASIONS THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO STAY BEYOND THAT TIME.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY ABOUT THE DEGREE HE FELT COMMITTED TO THE LATINS ON THIS POSITION, WALDHEIM EXPLAINED THAT IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE IMPASSE OVER THE SELECTION OF ABDEL RAHMAN'S REPLACEMENT LAST FALL HE HAD PROMISED THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO SUPPORT PERUVIAN AMB. PEREZ DE CUELLAR FOR THE UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP IF THE LATINS WOULD DROP THEIR CANDIDATE FOR UNIDO. PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED TO HAVE THIS IN WRITING
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AND WALDHEIM SAYS HE SENT HIM A LETTER TO THIS EFFECT.

3. WALDHEIM SUPPLIED ME WITH A COPY OF ANOTHER LETTER SENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN GROUP LAST DECEMBER TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LATIN GROUP WHICH REFERS TO THE UNIDO APPOINTMENT, AND UNEQUIVOCALLY COMMITS THE AFRICAN GROUP TO SUPPORT A LATIN CANDIDATE FOR THE UNEP POST.
(COPY POUCHED IO/SCT)

4. AMB. BENNETT AND I NOTED OUR HIGH REGARD FOR DE CUELLAR PERSONALLY BUT ALSO MENTIONED THE STRONG FEELING AMONG THE WEO'S THAT THE UNEP POST SHOULD GO TO ONE OF THEIR NUMBER. I NOTED THE DEPENDENCE OF UNEP ON WEO FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SAID I HAD RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT A NUMBER OF AFRICANS ALSO FELT THAT A WEO CANDIDATE MIGHT BE BEST FOR THIS POSITION, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN WEO INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR THE ONE UN AGENCY LOCATED ON THEIR CONTINENT.

5. WALDHEIM POINTED OUT THAT DE CUELLAR WAS AS WESTERN ORIENTED A MAN AS ONE WAS LIKELY TO FIND. HE NOTED THAT HOWEVER THE AFRICANS MAY FEEL NOW, THEY ARE CLEARLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING A LATIN CANDIDATE, AND, AS FAR AS HE KNOWS, DE CUELLAR HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE LATIN. WALDHEIM THEN WONDERED OUT LOUD WHETHER THE WEO'S WOULDN'T BE WILLING TO SEE THE UNEP JOB GO TO A VERY EFFECTIVE AND WESTERN ORIENTED LATIN PROVIDED THEY WERE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE FAO DIRECTOR GENERALSHIP WHEN BOERMA WAS REPLACED.

6. AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION WALDHEIM MENTIONED HANNAH'S APPOINTMENT AS HEAD OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT, EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE THAT HANNAH HAD AGREED TO SERVE FOR A YEAR, AND WONDERED WHETHER HE COULDN'T BE PERSUADED TO STAY ON PERMANENTLY. I SAID THAT WE TOO WERE PLEASED WITH THE HANNAH APPOINTMENT. I SAID THAT I FELT, THAT, ONCE HANNAH HAD GOTTEN MORE THOROUGHLY INTO THE JOB, HE MIGHT DEVELOP SUFFICIENT INTEREST TO CONSIDER STAYING ON.

7. I ALSO TOOK THIS OCCASION TO ONCE AGAIN REMIND WALDHEIM OF HIS PROMISE TO APPOINT FINDLEY BURNS TO
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UNIDO. WALDHEIM ACKNOWLEDGED HIS COMMITMENT, AND SAID HE HAD TALKED TO KHENE ABOUT IT. KHENE HAD TOLD HIM, (JUST AS HE HAD TOLD ME) THAT HE WAS RELUCTANT TO APPOINT BURNS BECAUSE THE ISSUE HAD BECOME SO CONTROVERSIAL IN VIENNA THAT HE WOULD LOSE FACE WITH HIS STAFF BY AGREEING TO THE APPOINTMENT. KHENE TOLD WALDHEIM THAT HE HOPED SOME FORM OF COMPROMISE COULD BE WORKED OUT. I EXPLAINED TO WALDHEIM THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF

A COMPROMISE, SIMPLY HIS REITERATED PROMISES TO ME TO HAVE BURNS APPOINTED TO THE POST. WALDHEIM AGREED TO KEEP TRYING, BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE FELT HE COULD DO NOTHING WITHOUT KHENE'S AGREEMENT.

8. COMMENT: WALDHEIM IS OF COURSE NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER THE WEO'S THE FAO DIRECTOR GENERALSHIP IN EXCHANGE FOR THE UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP SINCE SELECTION FOR THE FAO POSITION WILL BE BY A SECRET BALLOT OF ITS GENERAL CONFERENCE. NEVERTHELESS WALDHEIM APPEARS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE DE CUELLAR CANDIDACY, AS IS THE AFRICAN GROUP IN WRITING. UNLESS DE CUELLAR FAILS TO RECEIVE THE LATINS' ENDORSEMENT OR DROPS HIS CANDIDACY FOR PERSONAL REASONS HIS APPOINTMENT SEEMS ON A WELL-GREASED TRACK. THIS BEING THE CASE, I SUGGEST WE STORE UP CREDIT WITH THE LATINS AND THE SYG FOR OUR ACQUIESCENCE IN THIS APPOINTMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN00625
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750072-0259
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975021/aaaaaafx.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 034020
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYG WALDHEIM ON PERSONNEL
TAGS: PORG, AORG, UNEP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006